

Application No.: 10/705,965

Docket No.: 713-984

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The plug of claim [[1]] 7, wherein an entirety of the plug [[body]] is integrally formed of a thermoplastic elastomer of high density.

3-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The plug of claim [[1]] 7, wherein ~~radially inwardly of the flange the shank is connected with a head portion, and the free space is formed by an~~ the annular recess of the head portion is concentric (16) concentrically to [[the]] an axis of the shank and head portion is punch-shaped.

7. (currently amended) A plug for closing a hole in a flat structural member in a sealing and acoustically dampening manner, said plug comprising:

a shank which is adapted to be sealingly inserted into the hole and retained in the hole by an undercut cooperating with a wall of the hole; and

a radial flange integrally formed at one end of the shank of resilient material, the flange having a radially outwardly oblique or bent portion which is adapted to sealingly engage an associated surface of the structural member upon deformation when the shank is inserted into the hole;

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wherein

the shank, in an area of sealing engagement with the hole, has a sealing portion which, in a non-biased state, has a smooth conical outer surface, the outer surface having a diameter which increases towards the flange at least in the area of sealing engagement and is larger than that of the hole;

a free space is provided on an inner side of a juncture of the flange and the shank, said free space extending axially towards the other end of the shank up to or beyond the area of sealing engagement, whereby an annular shank portion is formed beneath the flange, and, when the shank is pressed into the hole, a material of the annular shank portion is deformable into the free space and the wall of the hole causes an annular groove in the annular shank portion, the groove defining the undercut;

radially inwardly of the flange the shank is connected with a head portion, and the free space is formed by an annular recess of the head portion; and

The plug of claim 6, wherein the head portion has is punch-shaped with an upper surface extending upwardly beyond the flange.

8. (currently amended) The plug of claim [[7]] 6, wherein the upper surface of the punch-shaped head portion is convex.

9. (currently amended) The plug of claim 6, wherein the annular recess has a width and the flange is formed such that ~~the flange~~, upon insertion of the plug [[body]] into the hole, ~~the flange~~ is deformed by the structural member approximately in [[the]] a plane of the associated surface and an annular inner surface of the flange engages [[the]] an outer surface of the head portion in that the annular shank portion connected to the flange is pivoted radially inwardly relative to [[the]] a remaining portion of the shank.

10. (new) A plug for closing a hole in a structural member, said plug comprising:

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a shank comprising an upper end and a lower end, the upper end having a recess extending downwardly toward the lower end, said recess dividing the upper end into a central portion and an outer, deformable portion radially outwardly spaced from said central portion by said recess, said outer, deformable portion having an engagement region adapted to be deformed by and sealingly engage a wall of the hole when the shank is pressed into and retained by the hole; and

a flange extending radially outwardly from said outer, deformable portion and being adapted to sealingly engage an upper surface of the structural member when the shank is pressed into and retained by the hole;

wherein

said shank has an outer surface which is partially defined by an outer surface of said outer, deformable portion, the outer surface of said shank having a diameter that is greater in said engagement region than in any other region of said shank below said engagement region, the diameter of the outer surface of said shank in the engagement region being adapted to be greater than an inner diameter of the hole, whereby said engagement region is deformed by the wall of the hole when the shank is pressed into and retained by the hole.

11. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein an entirety of the plug is integrally formed of a thermoplastic elastomer.

12. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein said shank tapers from said engagement region to the lower end thereof.

13. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein said shank, below said recess, has a shape of an annulus having a substantially triangular cross section.

14. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein the central portion has an upper surface extending upwardly beyond the flange.

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15. (new) The plug of claim 14, wherein the recess is concentric to an axis of said shank, the central portion is punch-shaped, and the upper surface of the punch-shaped central portion is convex.

16. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein the outer surface of said engagement region is cylindrical.

17. (new) The plug of claim 10, wherein the diameter of the outer surface of said shank decreases all the way from said engagement region to a lowermost point of said shank.

18. (new) A plug for closing a hole in a structural member, said plug comprising:
a shank comprising an upper end and a lower end, the upper end having a recess extending downwardly toward the lower end, said recess dividing the upper end into a central portion and an outer, deformable portion radially outwardly spaced from said central portion by said recess, said outer, deformable portion having an engagement region adapted to be deformed by and sealingly engage a wall of the hole when the shank is pressed into and retained by the hole; and

a flange extending radially outwardly from said outer, deformable portion and having a lower surface adapted to sealingly engage an upper surface of the structural member when the shank is pressed into and retained by the hole;

wherein

an outer surface of said outer, deformable portion has a diameter decreasing from a point, where the lower surface of said flange meets said outer, deformable portion, to a level of a bottom of said recess.

19. (new) The plug of claim 18, wherein the outer surface of said outer, deformable portion is conical.

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20. (new) The plug of claim 18, wherein said shank has an outer surface that is partially defined by the outer surface of said outer, deformable portion;

the outer surface of said shank having a diameter decreasing from the point, where the lower surface of said flange meets said outer, deformable portion, to a lowermost point of said shank.

21. (new) The plug of claim 20, wherein the outer surface of said shank comprises multiple conical sections arranged consecutively in an axial direction of said shank, conical angles of said conical sections increasing towards the lowermost point of said shank.

22. (new) The plug of claim 18, wherein an entirety of the plug is integrally formed into a single body.

23. (new) The plug of claim 22, wherein the central portion has an upper surface extending upwardly beyond the flange.

24. (new) The plug of claim 23, wherein the recess is concentric to an axis of said shank, the central portion is punch-shaped, and the upper surface of the punch-shaped central portion is convex.